

Competing Visions of Government: The Federalists vs. the Republicans

	<i>Hamilton (Federalist)</i>	<i>Jefferson (Democratic-Republican)</i>
<i>Vision of the role of government (National or State?)</i>	A strong national government is necessary to provide economic & political order; the “elite” should rule over the masses	The states should hold more power to protect the yeoman farmers from potential tyrants
<i>Payment of National & State Debts</i>	The national government should “assume” all state debts & should “fund” debts at full value; This would ensure confidence in the American economy & help consolidate American debts	The states should retain their own debts; States like Virginia who paid off their debts should not have to help more negligible states pay off their debts
<i>Tariff on Imported Goods</i>	The U.S. government should tax imported goods to generate revenue to pay off debts	The states should not be subject to national taxes; Import taxes hurt yeoman farmers by making products more expensive
<i>The U.S. Economy: (Manufacturing or Farming?)</i>	Manufacturing; the U.S. government should support manufacturing & building infrastructure to support manufacturing	Farming; America is a land dominated by yeoman farmers whose interests need to be protected & supported
<i>Creating a National Bank</i>	America needs a BUS to regulate currency & interest rates; the BUS should be privately controlled by bankers who are invested in the nation’s economy	The BUS is unconstitutional & places too much power in the hands of the elite
<i>Interpretation of the Constitution</i>	The elastic clause allows for a loose interpretation of the Constitution to fit the needs of the nation	The national government can only operate under the powers clearly expressed in the Constitution
<i>Whiskey Tax and Whiskey Rebellion</i>	The national government has the power to issue taxes in order to raise revenue; The Whiskey Rebellion represents a Republican plot to promote states’ rights	The national government should leave taxes to the states; The government used the army to stifle legitimate opposition to an unfair government tax.
<i>Support for the French Revolution</i>	The U.S. should support England, not France, due to England’s superior economic system	The U.S. should support France due to its conviction to liberty & assistance during the American Revolution